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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

|                        | Approved for use through 11/30/2007.  |
|------------------------|---|
| Application Number     | 10/591,185  |
| Confirmation Number    | 7748  |
| Filing Date            | June 28, 2007   |
| First Named Inventor   | Shinichi WATANABE   |
| Art Unit               | 2855  |
| Examiner Name          | Jermaine L. Jenkins   |
| Attorney Docket Number | Q96708  |
|                        | Confirmation Number Filing Date First Named Inventor Art Unit Examiner Name |

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite No                               | Patent Number | Kind Code <sup>1</sup> | Issue Date  | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages or<br>Relevant Figures Appear |
|                       | 1                                     |               |                        |             |  |   |

|                       |         | U.                 | S. PATENT              | APPLICATION I    | PUBLICATIONS                                       |   |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite No | Publication Number | Kind Code <sup>1</sup> | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages or<br>Relevant Figures Appear |
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|                       | FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |  |                              |               |                     |   |  |    |
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| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite No                  | Foreign<br>Document<br>Number <sup>3</sup> | Country<br>Code <sup>2</sup> | Kind<br>Code⁴ | Publication<br>Date | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of cited<br>Document | Pages, Columns,<br>Lines, Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear | Т⁵ |
|                       | 1                        | 0371755                                    | EP                           | A2            | 1990-06-06          | SUMITOMO<br>RUBBER<br>INDUSTRIES LTD                  |  |    |
|                       | 2                        | 0456437                                    | EP                           | A2            | 1991-11-13          | SUMITOMO<br>RUBBER<br>INDUSTRIES LTD                  |  |    |
|                       | 3                        | 0545681                                    | EP                           | A1            | 1993-06-09          | SUMITOMO<br>RUBBER<br>INDUSTRIES LTD                  |  |    |

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|-----------------------|---------|--|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite No | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | T <sup>5</sup> |
|                       | 1       |  |                |

| EXAMINER SIGNATURE |            |  |  |  |
|--------------------|------------|--|--|--|
| Examiner           | Date       |  |  |  |
| Signature          | Considered |  |  |  |

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. 2 Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).

3 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 4 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 5 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.